

THE NAME FOR THE COMMON BIRD PEPPER

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Capsicum annum var. aviculare (Dierb.) D'Arcy & Eshbaugh, comb. nov.

Capsicum indicum 5. microcarpon var. aviculare
Dierb., Handb. Med.-pharm. Bot. 28. 1819. Based
on C. minimum Mill.

By happy coincidence the lengthy search for the correct name for the common bird pepper turned up the epithet 'aviculare' which is a diminutive form of a Latin word which relates to birds.

An imposing synonymy accompanies this name and much of it will be presented in a future paper. Recently such names as var. minimum (Mill.) Heiser and ssp. baccatum (L.) Terpo have been mistakenly used for this plant.

This variety refers to the widespread and well known American bird pepper which is found as a weed of fence-rows, pastures, cafetales and waste places throughout warm parts of the Western Hemisphere. It is also naturalized in parts of the Old World.